



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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**“Gulfport Main Street Association Resolution Supports MS State Port Authority’s Efforts to Secure CDBG Funds for Port Revitalization and Expansion”**

The Gulfport Main Street Association Board of Directors passed a resolution supporting the Mississippi State Port Authority’s efforts to secure CDBG funds for port revitalization and expansion. GMSA views the port’s expansion as complimentary to the revitalization of downtown Gulfport and critical to Gulfport and the Coast’s overall recovery and future growth.

“We believe that the expansion of the port is vital for a full recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast,” says Eddie Appel, GMSA Board President. “The port expansion will set the stage for the Coast’s future growth as a place for families to work and live, and as a destination for visitors and tourists.”

**RESOLUTION OF GULFPORT MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION  
IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY'S RESTORATION  
PLAN AND THE USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS  
FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE PORT**

WHEREAS, the Gulfport Main Street Association is a non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of supporting the revitalization of downtown Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport is critical to the economic revitalization of the City and the entire Gulf Coast Region; and

WHEREAS, the MSPA's Restoration Plan would not only enhance the competitive position of the Port in the maritime marketplace, but also designate a portion of MSPA property adjacent to Gulfport's historic downtown district for non-maritime development; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of the Port would stimulate investment in quality retail businesses, restaurants, hotels, entertainment, and cultural activities in downtown Gulfport;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gulfport Main Street Association that the Association does hereby support the redevelopment of the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport and further requests that the Mississippi Development Authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development approve the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for this project.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2009.

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EDDIE APPEL, PRESIDENT

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LISA BRADLEY, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR